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TO : Department of State
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FROM : Amconsul NASSAU
DATE: December 17, 1970

SUBJECT : Fisheries: Violation of Bahamian Territorial Waters by U.S. Vessel "Hilda"

REF : NASSAU's 1128

Enclosed is a copy of the Ministry of External Affairs letter of December 4, 1970 protesting a violation of Bahamian territorial waters by the U.S. fishing vessel "Hilda" of Miami, Florida.

SPEAR *78*

Encl: as stated
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FORM 10-64 DS-323

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Contents and Classification Approved by: *Moncrieff*

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Nassau 11.22.70
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
P. O. Box 147
NASSAU, BAHAMAS
SJF

4th December, 1970

Dear Consul General,

I have been directed to draw your attention to a report made by a Bahamas Government Fisheries Patrol that on Friday, 6th November, 1970, at approximately 7:30 a.m., the U.S. Vessel "Hilda" of Miami, Florida, was observed pulling crawfish traps within half mile of Great Isaac Cay, which constitutes an infringement of fishing rights.

2. The vessel was flying the American Flag and the number 15, was displayed on the side of the wheel house. The vessel was approached by a launch from the Fisheries Patrol and its Captain was requested to stop by a uniformed officer of the Royal Bahamas Police Force. Instead of halting for inspection purposes, the vessel put on full power and headed out of the area.

3. In the rough seas, this precipitous action endangered the lives of the members of our Fisheries Patrol.

4. The Bahamas Government is seriously concerned by the continued illegal fishing in Bahamian territorial waters and the contiguous fisheries zone, and I have been directed to again request your immediate assurance that active steps are being taken by the United States Government to bring an end to such activities.

5. We would be grateful if you would inform the United States fishing interests that any future violations in waters under Bahamian control, will be dealt with in accordance with the full extent of the law.

6. Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney E. Bain
Rodney E. Bain
Permanent Secretary

Moncrieff J. Spear, Esq.,
Consul General,
Consulate of the United States of America,
Bay Street,
Nassau.

ETS/ds